

# The Importance of Immunizations



**Remember,  
vaccinating  
your child  
protects his or  
her health and  
the health of  
other children.**

Did you know that immunizations, like car seats and childproof outlets, could save your child's life?

But to fully protect your son or daughter, it's important that your child has all of his or her vaccinations *on schedule*. Ask your doctor about the "catch-up" schedule if your child is behind.

Vaccination is safe and effective and rarely results in serious side effects. Vaccines over the years have eliminated some diseases, such as polio and smallpox, which killed or injured many children.

Unfortunately, some children are still getting vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough. Both of these diseases have affected thousands of children in recent years.

Don't let your child be one of them.

Did you know that vaccine-preventable diseases could lead to not only death, but also disabilities? Not only that, but if your child has a vaccine-preventable disease, he or she may not be able to go to school.

It is important that your child get his or her recommended vaccinations on schedule. Insurance usually covers vaccinations. If money is tight for your family another option is The Vaccines for Children program, a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost. To find out more about the VFC program, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/).



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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)

800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline